

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 36 (cancelled)

Claim 37. (new) A recombinant fusion polypeptide having an N-terminus and a C-terminus, wherein the fusion polypeptide comprises:

(a) a fusion protein partner located towards the N-terminus of the fusion polypeptide, in which the fusion protein partner consists of a TolAIII domain defined by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13; and

(b) a non-TolA polypeptide located towards the C-terminus of the fusion polypeptide, in which the non-TolA polypeptide is other than an His tag,

wherein the fusion protein partner functions to facilitate higher levels of expression of the non-TolA polypeptide in a host cell compared with expression in the host cell of the non-TolA polypeptide lacking the fusion protein partner.

Claim 38. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, further comprising a signal peptide.

Claim 39. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 38, wherein the signal peptide is located at or near the N-terminus of the fusion polypeptide.

Claim 40. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, wherein the fusion protein partner has been codon-optimized for expression in the host cell.

Claim 41. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, further comprising a linker between the fusion protein partner and the non-TolA polypeptide.

Claim 42. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 41, wherein the linker comprises at least one cleavage site for an endopeptidase.

Claim 43. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 42, wherein the cleavage site comprises one or more of the amino acid sequences consisting of the group: DDDDK (SEQ ID NO: 3), LVPR (SEQ ID NO: 4) and IEGR (SEQ ID NO: 5).

Claim 44. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, further comprising an affinity purification tag.

Claim 45. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 44, wherein the affinity purification tag is located at or near the N-terminus of the fusion polypeptide.

Claim 46. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 44, wherein the affinity purification tag is an N-terminal His_n tag, with n = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 (SEQ ID NOs: 6 – 12).

Claim 47. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 44, wherein affinity purification tag is an N-terminal His₆ tag (SEQ ID NO: 8).

Claim 48. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 44, in which the affinity purification tag is an N-terminal His_n tag, with n = 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 (SEQ ID NOs: 6 – 12), linked to the fusion polypeptide by one or two or more Ser residues.

Claim 49. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, wherein the host cell is bacterial.

Claim 50. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, wherein the host cell is *Escherichia coli*.

Claim 51. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, in which the non-TolA polypeptide is any one of the group consisting of: colicin N 40-76 (SEQ ID NO: 33), colicin N Δ 10 T-domain (SEQ ID NO: 34), colicin N R domain (SEQ ID NO: 35), human PLA₂ (SEQ ID NO: 36), equinatoxin II (SEQ ID NO: 37), NBD1 domain of human (SEQ ID NO: 38), human PDK2 (SEQ ID NO: 39), and human BCL-XL (SEQ ID NO: 62).

Claim 52. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, in which the non-TolA polypeptide excludes membrane proteins.

Claim 53. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, having an amino acid sequence defined by any one of the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 14 and SEQ ID NO: 15.

Claim 54. (new) The recombinant fusion polypeptide of claim 37, in which the fusion protein partner is a functional homologue, functional fragment or functional derivative of the TolAIII domain defined by the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13.